

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-20 were previously pending in the application. Claims 2, 4-7, and 19-20 are canceled; claims 1, 3, 8, 16, and 17 are amended; and new claims 21-24 are added herein. Assuming the entry of this amendment, claims 1, 3, 8-18, and 21-24 are now pending in the application. The Applicant hereby requests further examination and reconsideration of the application in view of the foregoing amendments and these remarks.


In paragraph 3, the Examiner rejected claims 1-3 and 16-18 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by DeGroat. In paragraph 4, the Examiner objected to claims 4-15 and 19-20 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated that those claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Amended claims 1 and 17 are equivalent to original claims 7 and 19, respectively, rewritten in independent form. New claims 21, 23, and 24 are equivalent to original claims 4, 6, and 20, respectively, rewritten in independent form. Support for new claim 22 can be found in original claim 5 (now canceled). Since the Examiner indicated that claims 4, 6-7, and 19-20 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, the Applicant submits that now-pending claims 1, 17, 21, 23, and 24 are allowable. Since the rest of the claims depend variously from claims 1, 17, and 21, it is further submitted that those claims are also allowable.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, the Applicant believes that the now-pending claims are in condition for allowance. Therefore, the Applicant believes that the entire application is now in condition for allowance, and early and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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